

Message Text

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73

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5369

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2961

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EC

SUBJECT: LST SALE TO ECUADOREAN NAVY

1. USMLO IS REPORTING SEPARATELY PLANS BY THE ECUADOREAN NAVY TO SEND A TECHNICAL COMMISSION TO THE US ON MAY 7. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO DETERMINE WHAT ARRANGEMENTS AND REPAIRS NEED TO BE MADE IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO SAIL THE SURPLUS LST WE HAVE SOLD THEM TO ECUADOR UNDER ITS OWN POWER, AND WHAT OVERHAUL REQUIREMENTS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED HERE. THE COMMISSION PLANS TO CONFER WITH THE ECUADOREAN NAVY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON, OTHER APPROPRIATE USN OFFICIALS, AND THEN TO VISIT PORT ORANGE, TEXAS, WHERE THE LST IS. THEY ARE ALSO CONSIDERING VISITS TO PRIVATE SHIPYARDS AND TOWING FIRMS.

2. AS THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS, THE SALE OF THE LST HAS BEEN FORMALLY COMPLETED; ALL THAT REMAINS IS PHYSICALLY TURNING OVER THE SHIP TO THEM. WE HAD, HOWEVER, HOPED TO BE ABLE TO SELL THEM A REPAIRS/SPARES PACKAGE UNDER FMS PROVISIONS. THIS IS PRESENTLY STALLED BY THE REVIEW OF FMS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. IT APPEARS THAT THE ECUADOREANS MAY NOW SIMPLY WISH TO TAKE POSSESSION OF THEIR SHIP AND MAKE THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS OVERHAUL, REPAIR, AND TRANSIT TO ECUADOR.

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HEMENWAY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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